

Weston Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

Wednesday, May 2nd, 2012 Weston Town Hall Commission Room

Members Present: Louise Hastings, Alycia Angus, Bernie Park, Ray Rauth (Chairman), Julie Sidhu (Recording)

Guests: First Selectman, Gayle Weinstein and Jan Ledwick

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Rauth at 12:32p.m

Chairman's remarks: Ray welcomed Gayle to the meeting.

Ray explained "Pedways" (Connections from lightly used roads, good for walking to important points in town. i.e. town center, library). He has spoken with David Brandt of Aspetuck Land trust who is supportive of this initiative.

Ray also described the 2 ¼ mile campus loop walk that he took with Julie Sidhu, Wendy Petty and Mr. and Mrs. DeKeijzer. A question as to ownership on the land map of a piece of land connecting campus to Old Hyde Rd was discussed. First selectman, Ms. Weinstein, suggested checking with town tax assessor and planning and zoning.

Gayle Weinstein also informed the group that she attended the Bridgeport meeting of the Merritt Parkway Bike Trail and that state money has been approved. She also notified us that grant money approved for improving School Road crossing only covers engineer and design. Money for implementation would have to be found by the town. The 1996 SWRPA plan is now obsolete due to changing traffic patterns. The money covers both traffic lights and crossing, but does not include redesign of the Hurlbutt School entrance. Ms. Weinstein also noted the necessity of a left hand turning lane and that the intersection of School Road and Lord's Highway was also to be studied. Ray offered to work with the town engineer on this plan, given his extensive work with Norwalk and Wilton on their redesigned walkways and crossings. Gayle agreed that would be welcomed. **(Call to Action Ray- call John Conte)**

Committee members noted pleasurable walks taken on the Wilton bike/walk trails that border route 7/Wilton High School campus. All agreed a campus walking loop in Weston would be a good addition for all. Julie brought up possible objections from the B.O.E. regarding "Stranger Danger". Ms. Weinstein noted that these issues could be addressed with B.O.E and that not to forget that the school age population is only about 1/3 of the town population overall.

Pro Forma Matters:

Approval of May Agenda: Moved by Louise Hastings. Seconded by Ray Rauth

Old Business:

Goals: Alycia raised concerns that our goals may unintentionally be thwarted or our time wasted if we are not kept in the loop regarding road/intersection changes, decisions, and initiatives. She suggested that perhaps we could ask Ms. Weinstein or Judy Devito (Selectman assistant) if the committee could be notified of State, local and town meetings that might impact our mission and where possible send a delegate. *(? Call to action- Ray could you speak to Judy on this as you probably know best which meetings are important for us to attend)*

Another concern is the difficulty in getting time to meet with Police Chief and efforts that are being made to enforce existing laws. Bernie noted that speeding and cell phone use is rampant on the roads circling the village loop, but in particular on School Road.

Website: approved for publication by Ms. Weinstein. Julie will put finishing touches and let Louise know when site is complete so she can notify Weston Forum. Julie will submit to Sharon Shattuck for review of content before linking to town website. **(Call to Action Julie)**

Education: Gayle was brought up to date regarding the committees meeting with curriculum director Kim Kus.

Masks has initiated a summer safety program in the elementary schools and in part, due to our initiative last spring, has included bike and pedestrian safety. Ms. Kus has instructed middle school to do the same. We are still waiting to hear plans for the high school, but have offered to help in any way if needed. Louise spoke to driving school and found that bike/pedestrian safety is covered, albeit slimly. However, many new drivers take lessons elsewhere and/or are taught by their parents.

Outreach: Ray founded the Weston Senior Walking club last year and this year has enlisted Julie Sidhu to help lead the Thursday group. The group meets to walk on the track Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00a.m. Wendy Petty, Senior Center director, also participated in the campus loop walk last month.

Other: Jan Ledwick **spoke** of issues that she raised with town officials regard the bridge on Godfrey Road at Pent. One concern is the increase in traffic speed on a road widely used by pedestrians and cyclists. Another issue is the design of the bridge as it will not be in keeping with the character of that part of town. She will work to bring the traffic issue before the chief of police or the police commission.

Events:

Big Bike Pedi Event: Date for future Big Bike Pedi Event has been approved by Gayle Weinstein. It will take place in late August. August 26th the Sunday before Labor Day. This event will be the focus of next month's meeting.

Next Meeting: June 6th 2012